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SECURITY INFORMATION

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GENERAL

1. Kennan's comments on the Soviet note to Afghanistan: Ambassador Kennan believes that the recent Soviet note protesting the participation of nationals from NATO countries in oil drilling operations in northern Afghanistan does not necessarily portend an overt military attack. He suggests, however, that any intensification of Soviet policy towards Afghanistan would be likely to take the form of efforts to penetrate and subvert kindred peoples across the Soviet frontier together with further attempts to intimidate the Government of Afghanistan. (S S/S Moscow 485, 13 Sept 52)

Comment: Ambassador Kennan's comments correspond closely with the analysis submitted by the US Embassy in Kabul.

NEAR EAST - AFRICA

2. Iraqis sharply critical of West: The American Ambassador in Baghdad reports that the Iraqis continue to feel strongly on the Palestine issue. Those with whom he has talked believe that Israel was established only through active American intervention. They are not opposed to the Jewish people, but to Zionism, which they consider "dangerously aggressive." Neither the passage of time nor American loans and grants, they warned, will bring a change in their attitude.

The Iraqis also regularly complain about French and British imperialism which, they feel, is supported by the United States. The Ambassador was told that the outmoded Western practice of discrimination, if continued, would result in a violent reaction in North Africa and Asia and a turning to Communism.

The general feeling in Iraq toward the accomplishments

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of the Point IV program, which the Iraqi Prime Minister characterized as "nothing," is that it has been oversold on the basis of results.

While the United States is constantly criticized, Great Britain receives the heavy fire. There is not a single Arab pro-West newspaper in Iraq. (S S/S Baghdad 342, 11 Sept 52)

3. Libyan Premier criticizes Western policy on North Africa: Libyan Prime Minister Muntasser has told the American Minister that France's North African policy is a "path of folly," which might force the inhabitants of that area to turn to Communism.

The Prime Minister strongly criticized the United States for its implied support of France in Tunisia and its failure to oppose French colonialism. He warned that Libyan confidence in the United States was being undermined because of the American efforts to avoid UN debate on Tunisia. (C S/S Benghazi 40, 11 Sept 52)

LATIN AMERICA

4. Bolivian nationalization of tin mines may be imminent: The president of the Bolivian Tin Nationalization Study Commission has stated that nationalization of the "big three" tin mining companies is imminent, and that the compensation due will be virtually cancelled by notes held against the companies for unpaid export and other taxes. (S S/S La Paz 83, 11 Sept 52)

Comment: Minister of Mines and Petroleum Lechin, through organized labor, has been able to exert increasing pressure for nationalization. The three large tin companies affected control about 80 percent of total Bolivian tin production.

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